Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1530

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

CONFIDENTIAL GEORGETOWN 1178

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR,EG, GY

SUBJECT: EGYPT TO OPEN RESIDENT EMBASSY IN GEORGETOWN

- 1. GOG-OWNED CHRONICLE BANNER HEADLINED JULY 19 FIRST NEWS OF PRESENCE --MAN EGYPTIAN DELEGATION--QUOTE EGYPT TO SET UP EMBASSY IN GUYANA. UNQUOTE. ARTICLE NOTED FIRST SECRETARY WOULD ARRIVE IN TEN DAYS FOLLOWED SHORTLY BY COUNSELOR (CHARGE) AND LATER BY THIRD MAN. ACCORDING TO PRESS, DELEGATION MADE UP OF JAMAL MANSUR, UNDERSECY STATE IN FONOFF; AMB. ALY KABIL, LATIN AMERIAN DEPT, FONOFF; AND FSO LOUTFI YACUB.
- 2. PRESS QUOTED MANSUR DESCRIBING GUYANA AS QUOTE VERY FRIENDLY TO EGYPT UNQUOTE AND NOTING QUOTE GUYANA HAS THROWNITS WEIGHT BEHIND US FROM BEGINNING AND OF COURSE GUYANA IS A NON-AIGNED COUNTRY AND THERE ARE CLOSELY FRIENDLY RELATIONS AMONG OUR LEADERS UNQUOTE. GUYANA WOULD BE SECOND CARIBBEAN COUNTRY, AFTER TRINDAD/TOBAGO, TO HAVE RESIDENT EGYPTIAN MISSION. VISIT REPORTEDLY PART OF TOUR TO ALL LA COUNTRIES WITH RESIDENT EGYPTIAN MISSIONS CONFIDENTIAL

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ORDERD PERSONALLY BY SADAT TO INFORM GOVTS OF QUOTE PRACTICAL

STEPS UNQUOTE TAKEN BY EGYPT TO REACH PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT WITH ISRAEL. TEAM HOPED SECURE SUPPORT FOR EGYPT AT UN SHOULD EGYPTIAN INITIATIVE FOR SOLUTION AIL. TEAM STRESSED EGYPT READY SIGN TREATY OF QUOTE DEFINITIVE AND CONTINUOUS PEACE UNQUOTE WITH ISRAEL UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS, INTER ALIA RIGHT OF PALESTINIANS TO EXIST IN THEIR OWN STATE.

- 3. TEAM'S ITINERARY REPORTEDLY BEGAN JUNE 24 AND ENDS AUGUST 4 AND INCLUDES BRAZIL, ARGENTINA, CHILE, PERU, ECUADOR, COLOMBIA, VENEZUELA, TRINIDAD/TOBAGO, GUYANA, PANAMA, SAN SALVADOR, GUATEMALA. MEXICO AND CUBA. IN THAT ORDER.
- 4. WHEN I CALLED ON HIP JULY 21 ON OTHER BUSINESS I ASKED NEW FONMIN FRED WILLS IF HE COULD ADD ANYTHING TO NEWS ACCOUNTS. HE CONFIRMED EMBASSY TO BE OPENED BUT SAID IT WAS ENTIRELY AT EGYPTIAN INITIATIVE. HE ADDED HE GOT IMPRESSION EGYPT MOTIVATED BY GUYANA'S LEADING ROLE IN NAM AND CARIBBEAN, PLUS GROWING TIES WITH LATIN AMERICA WHICH MANIFESTED BY ELECTION TO SECURITY COUNCIL. REAL PURPOSE OF VISIT WAS TO ENSURE NO SLIPPAGE IN NAM SOLIDARITY AGAINST ISRAEL. HE AGREED WITH MY EXPRESSION OF MISTIFICATION OVER WHAT THREE EGYPTIANS WOULD FIND TO DOHERE.
- 4. I ASKED IF TEAM HAD GIVEN ANY INDICATION THAT EMBASSY MIGHT PROVIDE CULTURAL MISSION TO GUYANA'S MOSLEMS (9 PERCENT OF TOTAL POPULATION) SIMILAR TO PROGRAMS OF INDIAN HICOMM AMONG HINDUS. WILLS SAID TEAM HAD INDEED MADE DISCREET NOISES ABOUT PAN-ISLAMIC OUTREACH, BUT HE HAD TOLD THEM GOG WOULD PREFER EMBASSY NOT BECOME INVOLVED IN RELIGIOUS WORK, AS THIS IS SENSITVE MATTER AFFECTING PRESENT GOVT'S EFFORT TO ACHIEVE GREATER SPIRIT OF UNITY IN MULTIRACIAL POLYTHEISTIC SOCIETY. SIGNIFICANTLY, JULY 21 PRESS CONTAINS MESSAGE OF WELCOME TO EGYPTIANS FROM ISLAMIC BROTHERHOOD.
- 5. WILLS THEN VOLUNTEERED CRITICAL REMARK TO EFFECT HE FOUND IT HARD TO UNDERSTAND HOW EGYPT, WITH ALL ITS POVERTY AND SUFFERING, COULD IN GOOD CONSCIENCE SPEND SO LAVISHLY ON FOREIGN DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS, ESPECIALLY IN PLACES LIKE GUYANA WHERE THEY HAD NO TRADE OR OTHER VITAL INTERESTS TO SUPPORT. HE WENT ON FROM THERE TO GENERAL CRITICISM OF ARABS AS CONTINUING TO OWN SLAVES AND HAVING REPAID LDC SUPPORT AGAINST ISRAEL WITH INDIFFERENCE TO PLIGHT OF LDC'S CAUSED BY EXPLODING OIL PRICES.

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6. COMMENT: FOR THE SOUR NOTES, WILLS STILL LEFT IMPRESSION THAT GUYANA IS FLATTERD BY EGYPTIAN ATTENTIONS. AS TO WORKING WITH LOCAL MOSLEMS, EGYPTIANS ARE LIKELY TO FIND THEY ARE IN GAME SIMILAR TO THEIR TORTUOUS ROMANCE WITH LIBYA'S QADHAFI, EXCEPT THAT LOCALS WILL BE EXPECTING LOTS OF GOODIES. KREBS

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